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REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1 and 3-6 are amended, and claim 8 is added. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicant at this time.

Drawings

The Applicant has not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review Form PTO-948, indicating whether the formal drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson. Clarification in the next official communication is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 5 is amended herein to address the objection specifically pointed out by the Examiner. In addition, minor changes are made voluntarily to claims 3, 4, and 6, merely to place them in better form. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moczygemba et al. (U.S. 5,869,908) in view of Umeda et al. (JP 3-295777A), and claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda et al. (JP 3-295777A), in view of Nakao et al. (U.S. 2001/0012709 A1) and Yoshida et al. (U.S. 5,124,565A). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a remote lock apparatus for a light vehicle including a switch case with a switch operation element manually operable by a passenger, wherein said infrared receiver, a signal discriminating circuit of the control apparatus, and the switch case are formed as a single integrated sub-assembly and mounted on a steering bar handle of said vehicle.

Support for the novel limitations set forth in independent claim 1 as amended, can be found in the specification, for example in paragraph [0040]. See also Fig. 4, control apparatus C.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Moczygemba et al. and Umeda et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Moczygemba et al. document merely discloses a receiver 11 combined with a controller 8 into a single unit 8, the single unit 8 being separate from steering column lock 2 (switch), and the Umeda et al. document merely discloses switch 2, 3 mounted on the handle bar and separate from receiver controller 9, which is mounted adjacent to the battery.

Thus, no combination of these references teaches or suggests an infrared receiver, a signal discriminating circuit of the control apparatus, and a switch case that are formed as a single integrated sub-assembly and mounted on a steering bar handle of said vehicle, as set forth in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Moczygemba et al. and Umeda et al., for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claim 1, and claims 3-4 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Amendments to Independent Claim 5

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 5 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a remote lock apparatus for a light vehicle including said infrared receiver being disposed on said meter, wherein the control apparatus is disposed at a

suitable location of the vehicle separate from the infrared receiver, the control apparatus including a signal discriminating section.

Support for the novel limitations set forth in independent claim 5 as amended, can be found in the specification, for example in paragraph [0043]. See also Fig. 5, which illustrates control apparatus C being separate from receiver R.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 5 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Umeda et al., Nakao et al., and Yoshida et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Umeda et al. document merely discloses receiver/controller 9 being combined. Further, neither the Nakao et al. nor the Yoshida et al. document teaches or suggests a receiver mounted on a display panel, and locating the control apparatus separately from the receiver.

Thus, no combination of Umeda et al., Nakao et al., and Yoshida et al. teaches or suggests said infrared receiver being disposed on said meter, wherein the control apparatus is disposed at a suitable location of the vehicle separate from the infrared receiver, the control apparatus including a signal discriminating section, as set forth in independent claim 5, as amended herein.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 5 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Umeda et al., Nakao et al., and Yoshida et al., for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claim 5, and claims 6-8 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

All claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

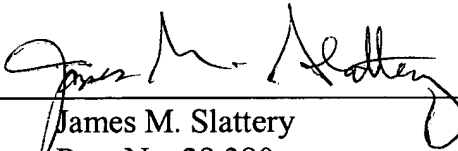
Application No. 10/076,491
Amendment dated December 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2003

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment
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